



# CALPEEK

## CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK

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### **CAMPAIGN 2003: S.F. JUDGE TOSSES OUT CHARGES AGAINST FIVE MORE TOP POLICE COMMANDERS.**

Editor's note: Big headlines, major news in San Francisco as Judge Kay Tsenin tossed out charges against five top SFPD offices who were indicted by a grand jury back on Feb. 27<sup>th</sup>. Judge Tsenin dismissed the obstruction & cover-up charges against Deputy Chiefs Greg Suhr and David Robinson, Capt. Greg Corrales, Lt. Ed Cota and Sgt. John Syme on April 4<sup>th</sup> – all arising from a Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> fight between 3 off-duty rookie cops and two civilians. Major political consequences from this action. Here's our analysis & commentary...

...Originally there were 10 indictments handed down by the S.F. Co. Grand Jury – against the 3 rookie cops (that was a given) and one each against PD Chief Earl Sanders and Asst. Chief Alex Fagan Sr. + the five above. Fagan's son was one of the 3 rookies charged with felony assault against the two civilians. Very early on the charges against Sanders and Fagan were dropped, but SF DA Terance Hallinan decided to press forward against the remaining five officers in the command structure, even though he told the grand jurors he didn't have enough evidence to prove the cover-up case. According to legal experts, Hallinan had an ethical obligation to drop the cases if he didn't believe he could prove the charges in court...

...Judge Tsenin, in tossing out the case against the 5 command officers, said there was no way to find an agreement that is essential to a conspiracy and said the five were *wrongly charged*. Not the kind of rebuke Hallinan needed as he faces voters in November. S.F. Mayor Willie Brown was pleased, ditto Asst. Chief Fagan and the POA. Still, the judge had some harsh words for the 5 officers – saying they were *arrogant, self-righteous and filled with attitude*. Some anti-Hallinan sources say that even though the judge tossed out the charges, the careers of these officers have been ruined forever by the DA...

...But Hallinan has been badly wounded too, thus some sources are wondering **IF** Hallinan will now really file for reelection. The speculation is that Hallinan will wait until

the very last moment, decide *NOT* to run and will then endorse Asst. DA John Hammer, the prosecutor who handled the high profile dog mauling trial last year...

...For sure former deputy DA Kamala Harris is running and so is attorney and former deputy DA Bill Fazio. This will be Fazio's 3<sup>rd</sup> run. Back in 1995, when lots of insiders thought then DA Arlo Smith ought to call it a career, Fazio decided to challenge his boss. Smith fired Fazio, but Smith didn't even make it to the runoff. That 1995 runoff featured Fazio Vs. Hallinan. Fazio went up against Hallinan a 2<sup>nd</sup> time four years ago...

...FYI: There was never any doubt that S.F.'s political right and center had serious questions about Hallinan, but now anti-Hallinan sources speculate that even Hallinan's allies on the *left* may be looking for someone new. Stay tuned...

### **CALIF. HOMELAND SECURITY: THE MOTHER OF ALL UNDER-FUNDED U.S. MANDATES HAS STATE IN RED.**

Editor's note: According to *Calpeek* sources in Sacramento, since 9-11 every public safety department in Calif. has had to do more with less money in the ongoing **War on Terror**. That's not only because of Calif.'s huge budget deficit (which impacts local govt. too), but because the Federal Govt. has failed to adequately fund local homeland security. Here's our update & analysis, with a focus on Calif...

...On Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>, Gov. Gray Davis(D) formed the Calif. Office of Homeland Security by combining the Office of Criminal Justice Planning & the Governor's Office of Emergency Services. Former CHP head George Vinson leads this office. There's also the Calif. Anti-Terrorism Information Center in the Calif. AG's office, formed shortly after 9-11, which collects info and acts as a link between local and federal law enforcement agencies. The first big federal appropriation to the 50 states was about \$600 million (many said that was woefully inadequate), but in the recent Bush war funding request of \$74.7 billion, about \$1.4 to \$2 billion was earmarked for State homeland security...

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... On April 9<sup>th</sup> the Dept. of Homeland Security named *L.A. & S.F.* as 7 high risk U.S. cities which would get added funding help for local 1<sup>st</sup> responders. L.A. will get \$12.5 million; S.F. \$11 million. *San Diego*, Calif.'s 2<sup>nd</sup> largest city with a huge military establishment and major tourist attractions, wasn't on the list. Thus far Calif. has received about \$45 million from the Feds for Homeland Security – not nearly enough to cover the skyrocketing costs...

... And while Calif. is more prepared now than before 9-11 to guard against terrorism, it's a huge State to safeguard. There are big ports (Long Beach/L.A., San Diego, S.F. & Oakland); 2 nuclear power plants; numerous dams; water supply networks; local, State & federal offices; tourist attractions; special landmarks; and big shopping malls. In short, only 70% of Calif. is covered by 1<sup>st</sup> responders...

... Small problems add up: 1) CA's 2002-03 budget gives various 1<sup>st</sup> responders about \$38 million to cover overtime costs. L.A. and S.F. by themselves are spending about \$2.5 million on homeland security each week and we're now at threat level **Orange**, which means Calif. 1<sup>st</sup> responders are probably eating through much of that overtime pay. As one source told *Calpeek*, "It's an awesome task with awesome costs." 2) Reimbursement for booking fees have been cut from the Calif. budget – this amounts to \$38.2 million and could result in terminating 250 cops statewide. All Calif. counties now charge various city police departments a booking fee when inmates are housed at county jails. Fees run from \$40-\$200 – it's money the cities don't have, thus the reimbursement. This program has been around since 1999. 3) Don't know the figures just yet, but there are hundreds (maybe thousands) of PD officers and deputies who are NGs and reservists now on active duty. Combine this loss with layoffs from budget cutbacks and the State is now in a difficult security situation, sources say...

... FYI: The Democratic Leadership Council's new magazine, *Blueprint*, has as it's lead article a survey and story about what the DLC calls *America's COP Crunch*. Based on a survey of 44 local law enforcement agencies, 60% of these departments are stretched "so thin that instead of gearing up and pitching in for the long battle against terrorism, they're being forced to pull back or go slow because of limited resources." This DLC study says that 5% of the all PD officers serve in the NGs or reserves and are now on active duty in the U.S., Afghanistan or Iraq. Stay tuned...

#### SOME INFO YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT CALPEEK.

Deadlines for news & Marketplace Network are 12 noon each Wednesday. *Calpeek* is printed and mailed each Thursday. Our FAX ☎ is (310)657-4340. *Calpeek* does NOT make refunds on cancellations...

#### CAMPAIGN 2003: 10<sup>TH</sup> AND 12<sup>TH</sup> COUNCIL SEATS ARE STILL UP FOR GRABS IN L.A. RUNOFF ELECTIONS.

Editor's note: Don't know if it's been the War – or just other things – but there's been very little news media attention paid to two L.A. City Council seats still up for grabs in the *May 20<sup>th</sup>* runoff election. Here's our update and analysis...

☑ *10<sup>th</sup> Council District* – This runoff for the soon to be vacant seat now held by termed out *Nate Holden* pits former labor leader/legislative aide *Martin Ludlow* against Holden's top deputy, *Deron Williams*. Williams finished first in the primary with 39.3% vs. 25.9% for Ludlow. Ludlow is labor's candidate and labor is Ludlow's ACE. The question is whether it's enough? Those who support Williams say Ludlow has no roots in the 10<sup>th</sup> CD – noting that last year he first looked at the State Assembly in the 48<sup>th</sup> AD, but backed out when Councilman *Mark Ridley-Thomas* announced. Then briefly Ludlow flirted with the 52<sup>nd</sup> AD (Compton area), but again had second thoughts when *Mervyn Dymally* entered the primary. For Ludlow to defeat Williams he'll need to pull 3 of out 4 of those voters who voted for someone other than himself or Williams + a huge Latino vote. The 10<sup>th</sup> CD won't see a huge turn out – perhaps 10-15% at most. Williams' ACE: he's been endorsed by 3 of this primary rivals: former Assemblyman *Rod Wright*, educator *Madison Shockley* and *John Caldwell*. And while Williams can't win on endorsements alone, he's also won endorsements from L.A. Councilwoman *Jan Perry*, U.S. Rep. *Maxine Waters* and new L.A. Councilman *Bernard Parks* from the neighboring 8<sup>th</sup> CD. Our source bet Parks will show up in several mailers – as will Waters, Perry, Wright and Shockley...

☑ *12<sup>th</sup> Council District* – This is the northern San Fernando Valley seat of termed out Councilman *Hal Bernson*. For the entire 24 years in office, Bernson's top deputy has been *Greig Smith*. This runoff pits Smith (33.6%) against L.A. School Bd. member *Julie Korenstein* (27.9%). Korenstein has been on the LAUSD board for 16 years – the longest serving member ever. Her longevity on the board is the subject of a new Smith hit piece. And there's little doubt at the LAUSD is more hated in the SFV than city hall. But the key to a win for either is with *Paula Boland's* voters. Boland got 24.4% in the primary. Smith's campaign claims that most of Boland's key supporters are now behind Smith, although Boland herself is not – and most sources think Boland will stay out of it. 4<sup>th</sup> place finisher *Rob Vinson* (7.9%) told *Calpeek* that he's endorsed Korenstein. This race leans toward Smith unless Korenstein can break Smith's hold on Boland voters. Stay tuned...

**ENERGY & POLITICS: RESIDENTS OF CORONA UP IN ARMS OVER CITY EFFORT TO BUY OUT SCE POWER.**

Editor's note: A repeat of the long and costly battles that have taken place in San Francisco over municipally owned power could be headed to So. Calif. as the City of Corona has decided to battle Southern Calif. Edison(SCE) – all in an effort to organize their own municipal power agency. Here is our analysis & commentary...

...In this Riverside Co. city of 130,000 people, residents had virtually no idea that city fathers were planning this move to buy out SCE. The day before a new city council was sworn in (Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>), that's when details first surfaced in public – to a lot of shock. During the November 2002 city council elections, the issue of a city take-over of SCE had NOT surfaced at all. "Never came up," is the way one insider told Calpeek. And if it didn't come up during the election, then it is possible all the early take-over talks within the council may have been conducted in secret. That raises for some very interesting questions for AG Bill Lockyer and the CA DOJ. Was there a possible violation of the Brown Act???

...Regardless, once the take-over of SCE came into the open, residents, with major funding help from SCE, formed Corona Residents for Responsible Utility Services (CRRUS). Leaders include prominent attorney Kent Hansen, former Mayor Andrea Puga and the former head of the Latino Chamber of Commerce, Ev Mata. CRRUS has hired Winner & Mandabach as their campaign consultant because this issue is headed for the ballot – *twice* if CRRUS is successful...

...Why twice? Corona, with 50,000 + registered voters, is **not** a charter city, thus there has to be an initiative campaign to give Corona voters the right to vote. If that ballot initiative is successful, then there would be a second campaign on the take-over proposal. And because of the anger this proposal has stirred, it's possible Mayor Jeff Bennett (he's a *deep pocketed* businessman who ran against now State Sen. Dennis Hollingsworth a few years ago) may hear that six letter word no politician ever likes to hear: **recall**...

...Sources believe the two initiative campaigns will be multi-million dollar efforts and other than Bennett, the advocates of the SCE take-over don't have the kind of resources necessary to be competitive with SCE. As one Calpeek source suggested, those who have been putting this plan together over the past 6-12 months obviously didn't think this through. Those who favor the take-over think utility users will see rates go down by at least 15%.

Cost of the take-over: \$200 million, but that figure is in dispute. It could be much higher...

...FYI: as Calpeek hit deadline, CRRUS was expecting to get title & summary from the city clerk on the initiative to allow a public vote – thus printing of petitions and circulation is only a short time away. The Corona City Attorney ruled that the whole petition effort was illegal, but a court recently reversed that decision. Stay tuned...

**CAMPAIGN 2004: UPDATE ON CA PRIMARY RACES.**

Editor's note: Here is *Part VIII* in our continuing series of updates about key U.S. House and Legislative primary races next year....

☒ **13<sup>th</sup> CD** – After all his anti-war and anti-Bush comments, is U.S. Rep. Pete Stark(D-Fremont) beginning to feel a little political heat? Perhaps, because he voted in favor of the \$80 billion war spending appropriation. That bill passed 414 to 12. FYI: CA U.S. Reps. Barbara Lee of Oakland and Lynn Woolsey of Marin voted NO...

☒ **70<sup>th</sup> AD** – This is the open seat currently represented by *termed out* Assemblyman John Campbell(R-Irvine). Campbell is running for Ross Johnson's 35<sup>th</sup> SD seat. The two top-tier candidates in this GOP-only field are businessman Chuck De Vore and businesswoman Cristi Cristich. Two other GOPers in the primary are Marian Zippee (former Assemblyman Gil Ferguson's candidate) and a Don Wagner. It's another JohnsonClark (De Vore) vs. Gilliard Blanning (Cristich) dust up. Siding with De Vore are O.C. Sup. Jim Silva and U.S. Rep. Dana Rohrabacher. On the Cristich side are Anaheim Mayor Curt Pringle, former State Sen. Marian Bergeson, Assemblywoman Lynn Daucher and Senate GOP Leader Jim Brulte. This primary will get lots of press attention because back in 1996, Cristich openly backed the Clinton/Gore ticket over Dole/Kemp. De Vore is already pounding away. Cristich is a solid fundraiser and reported raising \$100,000 at a Mar. 27<sup>th</sup> event featuring Brulte...

☒ **47<sup>th</sup> AD Update** – This is Speaker Herb Wesson's seat and he's trying to hand it off to his son, Herb III. As noted in the Mar. 31<sup>st</sup> edition of Calpeek, already in the running is attorney Rickie Ivy. Joey Hill, an aide to State Sen. Kevin Murray, is **definitely running**. And add the name of Dr. Rick Groper to the list – he's a CSU/Fullerton poli-sci professor, who is PAC chair for the CA Faculty Assn. and is an L.A. Co. Federation of Labor delegate...

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**CALPEEK's DIRECTORY OF CAMPAIGN CONSULTANTS**

Yes, we've begun to dig out all the stuff necessary to start work on *Calpeek's 9<sup>th</sup> Directory of Campaign Consultants*. Our first job is to get correct addresses and names of consultants, pollsters, fundraisers, etc. That's almost done. In about 10 days we'll be sending out the *Consultants' Questionnaire*. And shortly after that we'll begin to solicit advertising for the Directory. If you have questions about the Directory, email [Calpeek@aol.com](mailto:Calpeek@aol.com) or call *Calpeek* publisher Dick Rosengarten at (310)659-0205...

**CALPEEK'S INFOBAHN: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.**

Editor's note: Here are a few items, political & otherwise, worth noting...

■ ***Bush at War*** – After 21 days, Baghdad has fallen. There are still pockets of Iraqi armed resistance and coalition forces still must take Kirkuk, Mosul and Tikrit. Polling data indicates that support for the war is now running about 76% in a new Field Poll – among Calif. voters. Among GOP voters in Calif., support for the war is at 83%. Demos are split: 35% strong support for the war; 27% somewhat supportive; but 37% are opposed. Nationwide, Pres. George W. Bush's approval rating is running at 70%, but in Calif. (Field Poll) it's only 61%. An L.A. Times survey (taken nationwide) places Bush's approval rating at 68% vs. 28% disapprove. Support for the war in the L.A. Times poll is at 77% vs. 21% opposed...

■ ***Prager Won't Run for U.S. Senate*** – Radio talk show host Dennis Prager announced April 1<sup>st</sup> that he won't be a GOP candidate for the U.S. Senate in 2004. That's excellent news for U.S. Reps. George Radanovich, Darrell Issa and Doug Ose. Prager could have raised a huge warchest and would have given these unknown congressmen a very tough fight...

■ ***Lieberman Picks Up Calif. Support*** – U.S. Sen. Joe Lieberman (D-CT) has picked up endorsements for his presidential bid from Calif. U.S. Reps. Dennis Cardoza, Cal Dooley and Ellen Tauscher...

■ ***Elected PUC Bill Moves Forward*** – SCA 6 has passed out of the State Senate Energy Committee on a 8-0 vote. This Senate Constitutional Amendment by Sen. Jim Battin (R-Riverside) would require the 5-member Public Utilities Commission to be elected to a four year term (term limits would apply) and like the Board of Equalization, the 5 commissioners would be elected regionally. Only one drawback: *special interest money* would play a significant role in electing commissioners since the PUC regulates power, telecommunications and water. Thus you might have the

PG&E, SCE, AT&T, SBC or Verizon candidates...

■ ***Boxer Vs. FERC*** – U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer (D) has placed a hold on the nomination of Joseph Kelliher to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission until the FERC Board acts on Calif.'s request for compensation from energy/power companies how manipulated the market during Calif.'s 2000-01 energy crisis...

**CALPEEK's NEW JOBS AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.**

Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook...

● The CA Chamber of Commerce has hired Yolanda Benson and Trudi Hughes as lobbyists. The Chamber also announced the hiring of Seth Unger to the communications staff...

● Attorney Steven R. Pingel has opened his own law office at 18000 Studebaker Road, #700, Cerritos, CA 90703. (562)467-8908...

● L.A. P/A exec Harvey Englander, sr. vp of the MWW Group, has been appointed by CA Assembly Speaker Herb Wesson to the Bipartisan CA Comm. on Internet Political Practices...

● Teri O'Rourke, Janet King Russo and Ron Rogers have announced the opening of King Media Group at 770 "L" St., Ste. 950, Sacto 95814 (916)503-5464. This new firm will specialize in advertising, PR and media buying. It's the non-political arm of Russo, Marsh & Rogers...

● New president of the *Calif. Lexington Group* is P/A exec Coby King. Lexington Group will host U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer (D), 12 noon, April 22<sup>nd</sup> at The Napa Valley Grille, Westwood Village. Info at [coby@cobyking.com](mailto:coby@cobyking.com)...

**CALPEEK'S MARKETPLACE NETWORK**

● The Trust for Public Land seeks Conservation Finance Director to work with communities to create conservation funding through local ballot measures. Full job description at [www.tpl.org](http://www.tpl.org) or call Elisa Neipp at (415)495-5660.

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